

Surgeons and anatomists at Charing Cross Hospital, 1902 to 1906: photographs from an album by EDD Davis

Scanned and annotated by Laurence Garey, Archivist to the Anatomical Society, 2014

When I left the former Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School at Hammersmith in 2000 the merger to form the Imperial College School of Medicine had resulted in the disappearance of the preclinical departments as such. The library of the Department of Anatomy was closed, but a number of books were rescued. I found an old, red photograph album with a torn cover and several pages detached with a number of obviously very old photographs. From the first page it was clear that it had been compiled by newly qualified surgeon EDD Davis and contained photographs of resident medical staff, and the nursing and other staff, at Charing Cross Hospital between 1902 and 1906. In searching for details of the careers of the people portrayed in the pictures I was struck by how many of them had been anatomy demonstrators.

The first page of the album was signed by Davis, and again by him apparently much later. I conclude that he might have compiled the album quite early in his career, and then annotated it with names of key players some years later.

Edward David Darelán Davis (1880-1976) was a clinical student at Charing Cross from 1900, after beginning his studies in Cardiff. He qualified in medicine and dentistry in 1903. He became a demonstrator, working with anatomy lecturer Christopher Addison, later Viscount Addison, Hunterian Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons and Liberal and Labour politician and minister. Davis worked as surgeon in the Nose, Throat and Ear Department, as well as consulting for several other hospitals, including the Royal Dental, Great Ormond Street, and Mount Vernon. He was well liked and popular with his colleagues, and actively followed events in his field right up to his death at age 95. For details, see his obituary in the [BMJ](#) (page 776).

He appears in several of the photographs and, much later in his career, in a final "Postcard" that I found loose inside the album. As he is a subject in so many of the pictures, it is not clear who actually took them. His photographs show the dissecting room at Charing Cross (see photo 1) and various wards and operating theatres at the beginning of the twentieth century, but also sporting scenes, views of the Davis family and photographs of patients to illustrate certain pathologies. I have chosen a few here with some relevance to anatomists.



1 EDD Davis as an anatomy demonstrator at Charing Cross in 1903.



2 So-called aseptic surgery: bare hands or rubber gloves, and street clothes. Note the spectators in the gallery.

Surgeon James Stanley Newton Boyd (1856-1916), was born in Shrewsbury and studied at University College Hospital, where he later taught anatomy and surgery. He moved to Charing Cross in 1882, and was Senior Surgeon from 1905 to 1916. He also taught anatomy and pathology, and became Dean. In addition he worked at the Brompton Hospital, and in the First World War was a Lieutenant Colonel in the RAMC. He was a member of the Court of Examiners and Council of the Royal College of Surgeons. We also see him operating in photo 6.

<http://livesonline.rcseng.ac.uk/biogs/E000943b.htm>



3 Some of the staff in 1903.

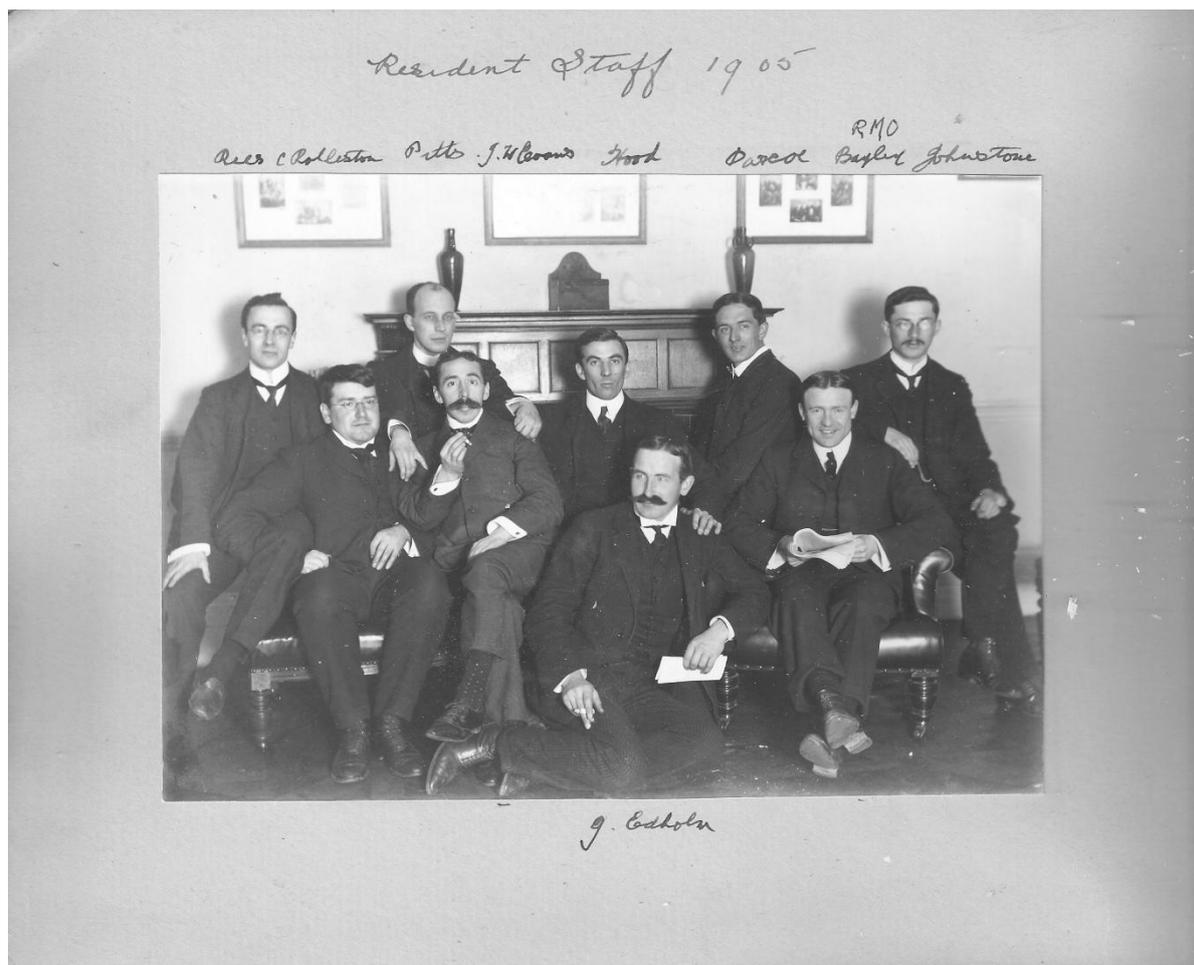
“EDD” had just qualified (see page 1) as had Basil Hood (1876-1978). The latter became a house surgeon at Charing Cross, and in 1910 Medical Superintendent at St Marylebone Infirmary. He appears on several of the photographs in the album. He too left a number of photographs, now at the Wellcome Library, taken at Charing Cross and in his later appointments. [hood album](#)



4 Resident medical staff, 1904, including a histologist and an anatomist.

Frank St J Steadman (about 1880-1943) qualified at Charing Cross in dental surgery in 1902 and medicine in 1907. A Major in the RAMC in the First World War, he later practised oral surgery at the Royal Dental Hospital. He also taught histology. [BMJ2](#)

Arthur Gentry Pitts (1880?-1958) studied at Charing Cross and worked in anatomy and ophthalmology. He emigrated to New Zealand. <http://livesonline.rcseng.ac.uk/biogs/E005283b.htm>



5 Resident medical staff, 1905, including the son of a famous anatomist.

Christopher Rolleston, son of George Rolleston, Regius Professor Anatomy at Oxford, studied at New College, Oxford, and Charing Cross, qualifying in 1903. He became County Medical Officer for Rutland and Peterborough. [BMJ3](#) (page 1283)



6 New operating theatre, 1906: a slight improvement over the old theatre in photo 2.

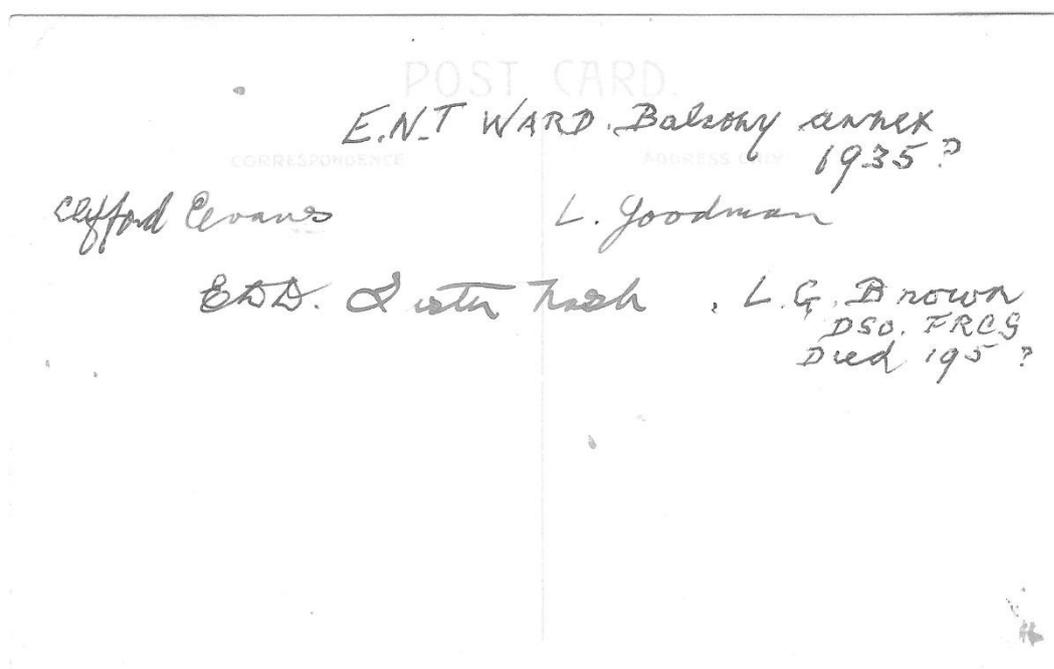
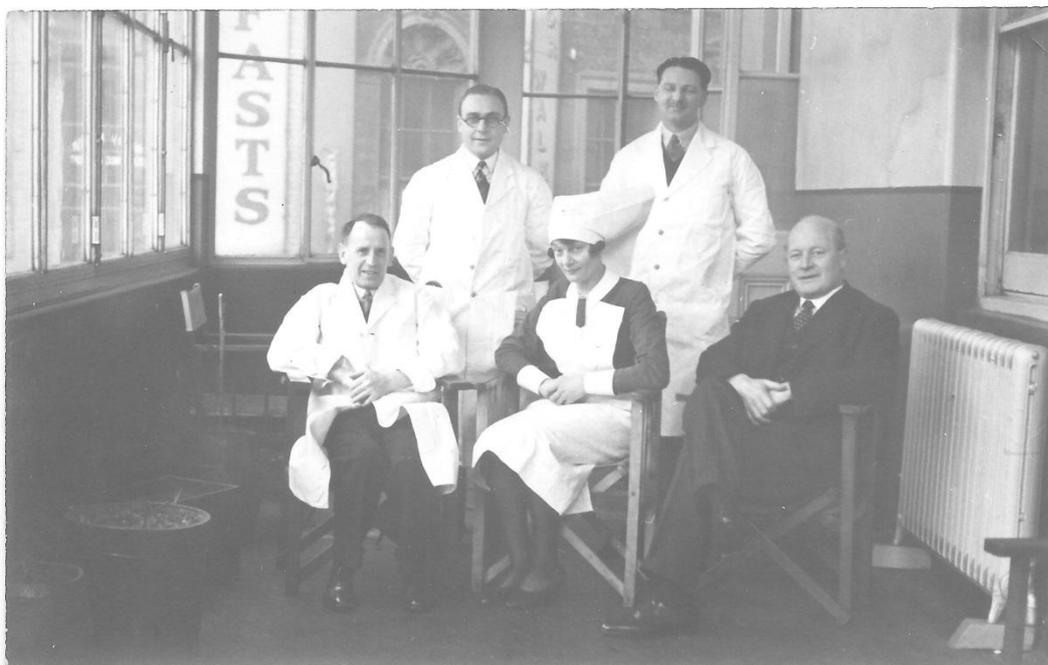
John Bright Banister (1880-1938) studied at Jesus College, Cambridge, and Charing Cross. He specialised in obstetrics and gynaecology and in 1928 was Vice Dean. To quote from <http://munksroll.rcplondon.ac.uk/Biography/Details/218> "John Banister is remembered as a very tall man, with a slight stoop." which makes him easy to identify in the photograph.

Herbert Sherwell Clogg (1874-1932) was born in Wandsworth. He studied in Cardiff and Charing Cross, won the anatomy gold medal, and became Senior Surgeon. He was active on the Court of Examiners of the Royal College of Surgeons, and in the British Medical Association and Royal Society of Medicine. <http://livesonline.rcseng.ac.uk/biogs/E004053b.htm>

We can just see the head of surgeon Stanley Boyd (see photo 2).

The Postcard

Loose inside EDD's album was a Postcard, with a photograph taken on the balcony of the ENT Ward, according to a note on the back. It is dated "1935?". We see Mr Davis, some thirty years after his photographs in the early 1900s, together with some colleagues.



Clifford Francis Evans (1899-1970) was born in Australia, and studied pharmaceutical chemistry in Melbourne. At the age of 17 he suffered an accident that resulted in major damage to a knee. In spite of a considerable handicap he went to England to study medicine at the London Hospital in 1926. He qualified in 1931, worked as anatomy demonstrator, specialised in ENT surgery, and later became senior registrar at Charing Cross. He was also active in facial plastic surgery. He served in the Second World War with the rank of Major.

<http://livesonline.rcseng.ac.uk/biogs/E005720b.htm>

Leonard Graham Brown (1888-1950) was also born in Australia, and was already a notable sportsman while at school. He was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and went to Balliol College, Oxford, in 1909 where he continued his national and international sporting career. He pursued his clinical studies at the London Hospital, qualifying in 1915, and joined the RAMC, winning the Military Cross. After the War he became aural surgeon at Charing Cross, and maintained his interest in sport all his life, becoming president of the Rugby Football Union in 1948-1949.
<http://livesonline.rcseng.ac.uk/biogs/E003915b.htm>

There are many other photographs in the Davis album, and I have simply selected a few of anatomical interest. Should readers wish further information, or have comments, I should be pleased to hear from them at I.garey@sunrise.ch.